

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING EXERCISES

The Senior Class Holds Annual Commencement Exercises at the Baptist Church & Essays, Orations, Music, Etc. Miss Helen Brown Wins Class Medal for 1907-08.

Another term of the Ocala High School has been brought to a successful conclusion, and the graduating exercises of the class of 1908 have passed into history.

The class included Messrs. Ralph K. Robinson, Lawrence Price and Misses Annie Margaret Atkinson, Genevieve Ethel Smith and Mary Gates, all of whom have made a splendid record for the excellent work they have accomplished during their school years.

The Baptist church, where the exercises were held, was packed to the doors, many being forced to stand during the evening, but so anxious were all to see the graduates that they were not at all unwilling to stand.

Judge W. S. Bullock presided at the exercises and the large attendance and the brilliant exercises was a splendid tribute to Mr. J. H. Workman, the energetic and intellectual young principal of the school, and to all who have the cause of public education in our city so much at heart, and everything merited the generous applause given.

The stage was prettily and artistically decked in ferns, flowers and the class colors, and with the graduates, teachers, trustees, etc., formed a very radiant picture.

After the invocation by Rev. G. H. Harrison, followed by a delightfully rendered piano solo by Miss Jean Teague, Mr. Ralph Robinson, the first of the graduates, delivered the following very fine oration:

THE AMERICAN INDIAN

The problem of how the continent of North America came to be settled is one that will doubtless never be solved to the satisfaction of all. The old theory that the Indians are a race of men descended from a tribe of Asiatics that crossed Behring Strait is fast sinking into oblivion. The popular supposition today is that during the second glacial epoch when great sheets of ice covered over one-half of the North American continent the glaciated portions were as unfit for man as the snow caps of Greenland are today. Therefore it is not strange that the population for many centuries clustered around the equatorial zone since the climatic conditions were better.

And as civilization the world over clings to the temperate zone it is not surprising to learn that the most civilized of the early Indian tribes lived in the torrid zone, which was at that time the same as the temperate zone of today. The Indians of this region were the most highly civilized when they were found by the white man. They had already established such cities as Yucatan, Honduras, Guatemala and other Central American states, whose population once numbered hundreds of thousands.

Perhaps the nearest approach to civilization in ancient America was reached in the Peruvian Andes, where a tribe known as the Incas subdued the neighboring tribes and became a governing class of a nobility with its own chieftain, called especially the Inca, as a king of the whole.

These Incas formed something like an empire. They built many good military roads, and did something toward civilizing the tribes they conquered. Their greatest population was in Peru. They had two domestic animals, the llama, useful as a light beast of burden, and the alpaca, useful for its fleece. They knew something of agriculture, and besides cultivating corn and other vegetables, the Peruvians cultivated the potato, which was unknown to the white man until their country was discovered. In fact they were far ahead of any other American tribes, although they had no form of writing. Up to the present time there has been found no trace of this half civilized race in North America east of the Rocky mountains. Then, with the gradual withdrawal of the glacial sheet, the climate grew proportionately milder, and the flora and fauna moved simultaneously northward. The solar heat at the equator, which had before been tolerable; large areas of agricultural lands became dry; quarrels and jealousies arose, and an impulse of emigration supervened which has probably had no parallel. Some emigrants went to South America and settled there, carrying their customs, rights, and architecture. An immense departure took place into Mexico and Arizona, which later extended westward up the Pacific coast. At the same time the northward migration took place through New Mexico, to southeastern Colorado, another still more direct across the Gulf of Mexico in boats from Yucatan to the mainland, and thence northward between

the 87th and 97th meridians, extending at least as far up as Lake Superior. Great numbers also went to the Bahamas, where colonists had already been planted, and then to Florida, and from this, our native state they spread all over the eastern part of the continent. Perhaps in no more eloquent language can we describe the early Indians than in that of Sprague:

"Not many generations ago, where you sit, encircled with all that exalts and embellishes civilized life, the rank thistle nodded in the wind, and the wild fox dug his hole unscared. Here lived and loved another race of beings. Beneath the same sun that rolls over your head the Indian hunter pursued the panting deer; gazing on the same moon that smiles for you, the Indian lover wooed his dusky maid. Here the wigwam blaze beamed on the tender and helpless, and the council fire glared on the wise and daring. Now they dip their noble limbs in your lakes, and now they paddle the light canoe along your rocky shores. Here was the echoing whoop, the bloody grapple, the defying death song; and when the tiger strife was over, here curled the smoke of peace. Here, too, they worshipped, and from many a dark bosom went up a fervent prayer to the Great Spirit. He had not written his laws for them on tables of stone, but had traced them on the tables of their hearts. The poor child of nature knew not the God of revelation, but the God of the universe he acknowledged in everything around. He beheld Him in the star that shined in beauty behind his lonely dwelling, in the sacred orb that flamed on him from his midday throne, in the flower that snapped in the morning breeze, in the lofty pine that defied a thousand whirlwinds, in the timid warbler that never left its native grove, in the fearless eagle whose untired pinion was wet in clouds, in the worm that crawled at his feet, and in his own matchless form, glowing with a spark of that light to whose mysterious source he bent in humble though blind adoration."

All this has passed away. Across the ocean came the pilgrims' bark, bearing the seeds of life and death. The former were sown for you; the latter sprang up in the path of the simple native.

The Indians were able to annihilate the early settlers, as they did Raleigh's colonists. Soon they found the colony under Capt. Smith too strong so they were pushed from the shores. Next the Pilgrim lands in New England, and the Red Man is driven from the shore, and the White Man gets a foothold. Then it is not long before the White Man gains control of the whole eastern shore, as far west as the Appalachian mountains. Jealousies arose among the Indians, some fought with some of the white men to destroy their clansmen, thus aiding the white men to destroy Indian power forever. To illustrate this take for examples the Algonquins and the Iroquois—the Algonquins friends of the French Canadians, the Iroquois allies to the English, and the people of New York.

The Indians, since the landing of the white men, have been driven from pillow to post, and still they retain their self respect. They are proud of their ancestry, and glory in the virtues of their race.

The North American Indians were self supporting as long as they could roam the forests and plains. The change came when all the valleys of the United States were settled; when the wild beasts were not so numerous; the hunting fields plowed, and the fishing grounds navigated. Then the problem of existence was presented to him in a new light. Therefore to confine him to a reservation, and leave him to provide for himself would have meant extermination, so our government has prepared for its wards by issuing rations. Twice each month rations are given to more than forty-five thousand Indians, of whom nearly eighteen thousand belong to the great Sioux nation. The Sioux, in their treaty, made an agreement with the white man, which says that rations are to continue until they are able to support themselves. Under such conditions, why should Indians seek to be self supporting? If there is no need for work why should he learn how to work? In other words, as a class the Indian has no need for an education. We hear a great deal about the Indian being civilized off the face of the earth. The Indian population of the United States is about two hundred and seventy thousand. As a matter of fact it has been diminished very little since the day of Columbus.

Often it has been demonstrated that the Indian is not lacking in intelli-

gence, and that he can become a good citizen. Not very long ago there was a time when it was a serious question whether the Indians could be educated and merge themselves into American life as civilized men. The first schools were short lived. Gradually, however, much better progress was made through the fact that the Indians came in contact with civilized man and observed his ways and industries. The triumph of civilization, the power of prosperity, the wonders of industrial art, all made a deep impression on the Red Man. Then came the industrial school. The influence of the new school is already widely manifest, for young Indians are everywhere drifting into industrial life, and they will continue this progress as civilization presses in around them in an ever narrowing circle. Personal contact has been the mainspring of Indian progress in this country.

The present system of education is complex, extensive and costly, but it is an economy in the end. In theory at least the Indian is trained so that when opportunity is granted him, he can help himself, and theory has been fairly well demonstrated by results.

In a financial way education has shown itself in Lou Hill, a graduate of the law department of the U. of V., who is recognized as the richest man among the Indians. His wealth is conservatively estimated at \$3,500,000. In a political way, the Indians have two members in the senate, one from Kansas and one from Oklahoma. So let us educate the Indian, and not only make senators and millionaires out of a few of them, but civilize the whole tribe, and have good law abiding citizens in place of the half-civilized race, and in this way make the future of the Indians as rich in intellectual and industrious development as the past has been filled with the romantic and almost tragic struggle of the race.

He was vociferously applauded and was the recipient of many encomiums.

The chorus, "Morning Visitation," by the graduates, assisted by others of the class, was pleasingly sung.

Miss Annie Atkinson read an essay on the important and now much discussed subject of "Forestry," which showed very thoughtful and thorough research. We print Miss Atkinson's essay in full:

FORESTRY

Forestry is not a new subject. Two thousand years ago it was discussed and has been studied and applied ever since. The sources of forestry do not vary but depend upon natural laws, which are being carried out all the time. Mr. Cleveland, Jr., suggests that we take forestry as a yardstick with which to measure the height of a civilization. The foremost nation is the one that has pursued forestry most widely and systematically, and the nation that has overlooked it is termed "backward." With a little study it will be seen that those countries which have gone farthest in the use of forestry are the ones which today are the most prosperous, which have the least proportion of waste land, and which have the most promising futures.

The German empire today has nearly 25,000,000 acres of forest and has to import one-sixth of all the wood she uses, making a considerable drain upon her neighboring countries. Nearly two thousand years ago she felt the need of preserving her forestry, and now she leads in scientific thoroughness, and is increasing her profit annually. Half of a century has increased her money returns from an average acre of forest seven-fold and has protected agriculture and river systems.

France produces only one-third of her demand and the two-thirds imported amount to \$46,000,000. Two-thirds of the torrents of Europe are in France. In the Alps and Pyrenees mountains there are over one thousand mountain streams which are dangerous. Almost a million acres of mountain slopes are exposed to erosion by these streams and this does not take into consideration the flat lands. As far back as the 16th century there were certain laws prohibiting the cutting of forests, but during the French revolution those laws were swept aside and the mountain sides were cleared at such a rate that disastrous effects were felt within ten years. When 800,000 acres of farm land had been ruined and people had been reduced to poverty and forced to emigrate, attempts were made to check torrents by sodding instead of by forest planting, but were failures, and now forests are being planted and the money expended will reach \$50,000,000 before the work of reforesting for protection is complete. The sand dunes on the coast of

France which covered 350,000 acres have been planted in forests and instead of being a constant threat to the farmers now are producing valuable crops of wood; 2,000,000 acres of marshes have been changed from a worthless condition into forest valued at \$100,000,000. In France forestry has, then, decreased the dangers from floods and dunes, which threatened to lay waste vast fields and has added millions of dollars to the national wealth.

Russia comprises two-thirds of the whole forest area of Europe and exports over \$30,000,000 worth of wood. She saw the necessity of forestry before the time of want had come, and was not forced into it for self-protection, as were Germany and France. She was convinced of their value by the lessons other countries learned by actual experience. Forests of natural growth, which hold shifting sands to protect the banks of rivers, canals and other waters, and prevent avalanches, are free from taxes, and forest-planting for that purpose is not taxed for thirty years.

Fifty-nine per cent. of the total area of Japan is under forests, and although Japan imports more timber than she exports, she exports over one million dollars worth of wood and four million of matches, and the annual revenue is now \$8,000,000. The management of Japanese forestry dates back to the time before the birth of Christ, and during the time of the early Christians forest planting on water-sheds to prevent floods was enforced. As a result, Japan alone among the nations began modern industrial progress.

China is the only civilized country which has destroyed her forests, without making an effort to replace them, therefore bringing upon herself two costly calamities—floods and water-famine. Her hills have been largely stripped of all vegetation and her soil is completely left to the mercy of the floods. Trees have been taken from every place possible, and nowhere in the world has the soil been so cleaned of forests. Without trees, water cannot be retained at the higher levels, therefore cannot be fed to the lower soils or to the springs. The result is that even on plains the water level is too far beneath the surface to be used. Agriculture would be entirely impossible if it were not for irrigation and the terracing of hillsides by which the rains are made to wash the soil into small fields whose edges are propped up by walls.

Nearly one-third of Canada is forest, and her net exports of wood are over 2,000,000 tons a year, which is just twice that of the United States. Now, that all Europe is falling behind every year in the production of wood, the present indications are that the countries which lead as exporters of wood will have to cut short their supply. England, who has been depending upon foreign supplies of wood, and the leading importer of wood, will have to count more and more upon Canada.

When Columbus discovered America in 1492, the western hemisphere was practically a wilderness of boundless forests. No other part of the world equalled the beautiful and luxurious timber growth of this continent. While the settlers laid waste some of the timber to build their homes they burned millions of dollars worth of logs in the process of clearing the land for cultivation, and as the country grew westward, the "pioneer ax" continued the destruction of the forests, always cutting down and never replanting.

Nations which now manage their forests on well laid principles have passed through four stages of forest experiences. First, forests were so plentiful as to be in the way, and were either neglected or destroyed. Second, as the borders of the forests receded from the settlements the question of local supply of wood had to be met, and the forests were either protected or spared. Third, the demand for wood and a better knowledge of forests and its growth led to the recognition of the forest as a crop, therefore must be replanted. Fourth, as progress led to measures for the general interest, including a wiser and less wasteful use of natural resources, the forest was protected and controlled so as to yield a constant annual income. The United States has the experience of all other countries to rely upon and the forest rules, which hundreds of years of actual practice have proved right, are at arm's length, and only have to be grasped.

During the year of 1906 forest work carried on by the states made greater advance than any previous year. About twenty-five states now have

forest officers and ten have state reservations.

National forests are objected to by a great many people, who claim that as soon as a forest becomes national the industry of the region is checked, resources locked up, settlement prohibited and future growth made almost impossible. This decision is given when the real facts concerning them are not known. Some claim that they withdraw land from taxation, and if they were left to pass into private hands there would be more taxable property for the support of schools. The government pays no taxes, but it pays those counties in which the forests are located ten per cent. of all the receipts from the sale of timber. Taxes from private lands are temporary returns, because after the timber is used they are generally left to burn up and become vacant and barren, and are quite valueless for taxation. In 1906 the national forests paid the country school and road funds over \$175,000, and this amount will be greatly increased each year.

Mr. Humphrey of Mississippi says there are only three sources from which the national wealth is drawn, and they are the soil, the forests and the mines. To produce this wealth the soil must be made productive and the forest lands must be managed so as to produce a valuable crop each year. There are records where forests as large as the state of Rhode Island have been destroyed in a few days by fire. This means a loss of millions and millions of dollars. The preservation depends entirely upon the interest taken by the citizens. The evolution of this time changes all things, and every condition should be analyzed, and a problem solved that will bring the most good upon the whole country. Important as is the wood aspect of this question, the water aspect is more important. It has not yet been proven that forests increase the rainfall, but if they are destroyed, droughts and likewise floods follow. Water runs down a barren, hard surface with a rush, all at once. It runs down a spongy, soft surface much more slowly, little by little, and the forest acts like a big sponge. It soaks up the water, checks it from rushing down all at once, and brings about an even flow during the whole season. Where the slopes are bare and the soil unprotected, the waters carry down with them great quantities of soil, gradually filling up the reservoirs and canals and causing immense damage to the irrigation system.

New England, destitute of mines and precious metals, and practically without agriculture, depends upon its forests, streams and manufactures. The latter grew up because of the water power, and these water powers are dependent upon the uniform flow of the streams. Cutting the forests seriously impairs the evenness of the stream flow, causing floods and droughts, and thereby threatening the well being, if not the very lives, of whole communities.

The utility of water-power in the south has been greatly increased for transmitting electricity, consequently electricity has become "the power behind the south."

The secretary of the American Forestry Association says that for the utilization of this power the forest, as a balance wheel to stream-flow, is absolutely indispensable. No system of reservoirs, however expensive, can more than supplement the forest, and in no way can it supply the forest's place. In both New England and the south, forest cutting has already seriously impaired the usefulness of water power. Millions of dollars of government money is thrown away in scooping out detritus, which should have been kept, through forests, in position upon the sides of mountains and in valleys. The best part of the soil is carried toward the sea. If this condition continues unchecked the resources of the government will soon be insufficient to the task of keeping channels and reservoirs clear.

J. Corrigan, Jr., says: "By employing the forces of nature the task can be accomplished, and instead of appropriating money to clear out obstructions in streams and deepen channels, the government should spend money in such a way that the streams would not fill up."

The classification of the different woods shows how sweeping has been the destruction. To what we used for hardwood twenty years ago is added anything that will saw up into a board.

The devastation of hardwood in the south is as great as the pine in the north. Stave-makers, tie-cutters, vehicles and machinery-makers have caused vast destruction. The prices

of lumber have risen fifty per cent. during the past five years and is still rising. Last year nearly forty billion feet of lumber were cut, of which the railroads used one-third. Our standing timber is estimated to be somewhere between fourteen hundred and two thousand billion feet. If forty billion are used annually it will last between thirty-five to fifty years. What will the country have to offer to the coming generation when all of the trees are gone? In a few years large quantities of lumber will be imported into this country and the import duty alone will be in excess of the price of lumber now.

A bill was introduced in congress last winter, the purpose of which was to make a forest reserve of the important watershed part of the Appalachian system. The constitutionality was denied by Representative Bartlett of Georgia, and it was held up by Speaker Cannon because the speaker said he was afraid of the immense cost. He certainly does not realize the tremendous need of his own country.

The trees destroyed, the law runs this way: "Shrubs, heat, sandbars, drought, desert, poverty!" Trees saved, it runneth thus: "Trees, moisture, streams, rain, loam, harvesting, men!"

Miss Ellen Clarkson's piano solos by Chaniade were thoroughly enjoyed. She is not only a very bright pupil, but a clever pianist as well.

The rendition of "The Painter at Seville" by Miss Mary Gates was superb. She is the smallest member of the class, but in her delivery of this famous poem, made herself both seen and heard to splendid advantage. She had been well trained and was a great credit to her instructors, and her friends were very proud of her.

The class history and prophecy in the hands of Miss Genevieve Smith, was particularly clever, and the hits she got off on her classmates were received by them in great good humor, and were likewise heartily enjoyed by the audience. Her piece was as follows:

CLASS PROPHECY

One bright moonlight night, after I had been selected to write the class history and prophecy, I was lying in the hammock, wondering what would become of the members of my class after graduation day. Suddenly, as I lay there, the most beautiful woman I ever had seen came and stood by me. I looked, filled with wonder and amazement. Then she spoke and said: "You may well wonder, as you have never seen me before, and probably never will again. I have come, however, to help you with your class prophecy. To reveal what lies in the hitherto unknown future of each member, first you must tell me what you know about the members of your class, as gained by your long association with them. Then, if you desire, I will reveal the future of each to you."

I told her that I would relate their history, as far as I could, in the order of their entrance into the Ocala High School, and I began at once as follows:

Mary and Ralph entered about the same time, and are the only ones in the class having been continuously through all the grades of the school. Mary has the great honor of being the smallest girl who has ever graduated from the Ocala High School. She has always been very willing to help the teachers in times of trouble. Indeed, for several years Mary has played the organ for Miss Hattie Dye; this year, however, her services have been needed in the High School room, and she has gladly and willingly played the organ for us all the time.

In addition to Mary's musical attainments she does excellent work on literary and mathematical lines, since she comes to school every day with all her lessons prepared, and seldom fails to respond promptly when called upon.

Ralph says that he has always been so good that he has never made any history. He has always shown a strong tendency, however, for mechanical work, and whenever there is anything to be done in that line the teachers never fail to call on him. In the study of Caesar, when we had to construct a bridge model, similar to that over which Caesar crossed the Rhine, the one Ralph brought was undoubtedly the best, as well as the least enduring, as he had carried out the construction on Caesar's plan, and built it from green wood. Later on, in the eleventh and twelfth grades, Ralph was chosen to care for and arrange an apparatus for experiments in the study of chemistry and physics.

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